

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 AID-20 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 OMB-01

CIEP-02 STR-08 RSR-01 /168 W
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R 301110Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1473

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 2962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CM

SUBJECT: REVISION OF FRENCH-CAMEROON ACCORDS

REF: YAOUNDE 2730

1. DURING AUG 29 MEETING WITH PRESIDENCY ASSISTANT SEC GEN SENGAT KUO, AMB ASKED ABOUT STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR REVISION OF FRENCH-CAMEROONIAN ACCORDS. HE REPLIED THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BEGIN BY END OF SEPTEMBER AND WILL BE CARRIED ON ALTERNATIVELY IN PARIS AND YAOUNDE.
2. NEGOTIATIONS WILL, HE ADDED, BE FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE AND BASIC. THESE ACCORDS NEGOTIATED AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE GAVE FRANCE A PRIVILEGED STATUS IN CAMEROON (AND ELSEWHERE IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA). THE TIME HAS NOW COME TO ESTABLISH FRAMEWORK OF MORE NORMAL STATE-TO-STATE RELATIONS. HE CITED STATUS OF VARIOUS RESEARCH AND OTHER INSTITUTES COMPLETELY DOMINATED BY FRENCH AS EXAMPLE OF ISSUES THAT WOULD BE NEGOTIATED.
3. WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN A SERIOUS ISSUE, MONETARY RELATIONS, SENGAT KUO DESCRIBED AS HAVING BEEN DISPOSED OF FOR TIME BEING BY BRAZZAVILLE AGREEMENT AND CREATION OF NEW REGIONAL CENTRAL

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BANK. CAMEROON HAD GONE ALONG WITH THIS AGREEMENT IN VIEW

OF IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHED TO ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS AND
IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND RELATIONS WITH FRANCE
EVEN THOUGH THESE ARE NOT NECESSARILY SHARED BY CAMEROON.

4. SENGAT KUO REMARKED THAT QUITE APART FROM THE JURIDICAL
FRAMEWORK, FRANCE AND THE FRENCH ENJOY THE PRIVILEGED POSITION
THAT IS INEVITABLE AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF COLONIAL RULE IN WHICH
CLOSE CULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL TIES HAVE BEEN DEEPLY ESTABLISHED.
HENCE, UNTIL CAMEROON ACHIEVES SUCCESS IN ITS DIVERSIFICATION
EFFORTS, THE FRENCH WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY A SPECIAL POSITION IN
FACT.

MOORE

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